# BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AC-2012-50

MARTHA W. VLCEK 2480 Ram Crossing Way Henderson, NV 89074 OAH No. AC-2012-50

Certified Public Accountant Certificate No.

63080

Respondent.

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the California Board of Accountancy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on <u>December 24,2012</u>.

It is so ORDERED NOVEMber 24, 2012

FOR THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF

ACCOUNTANCY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California JANICE K. LACHMAN Supervising Deputy Attorney General STERLING A. SMITH Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 84287		
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8	Attorneys for Complainant		
1	BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. AC-2012-50	
12	MARTHA W. VLCEK 2480 Ram Crossing Way	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
13	Henderson, NV 89074 Certified Public Accountant Certificate No.	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
14	63080		
15	Respondent.	·	
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17	WE IG HEREDAY CONDUCT A THE AND A CREED I 11 4 4 4 1 1		
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
20	PARTIES		
21	1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the California Board of		
22	Accountancy. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this		
23	matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Sterling A. Smith,		
24	Deputy Attorney General.		
25	2. Respondent Martha W. Vlcek (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by		
26	attorney Eugene Illovsky, whose address is: Morrison & Foerster, 755 Page Mill Road, Palo		
	Alto, California 94304.		
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3. On or about November 13, 1992, the California Board of Accountancy issued Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. 63080 to Martha W. Vlcek (Respondent). The Certified Public Accountant Certificate was renewed inactive (without continuing education) for the period June 1, 2004, through May 31, 2006, was expired on June 1, 2006, through August 24, 2006, was renewed inactive from August 25, 2006, through May 31, 2008, was expired from June 1, 2008, through July 24, 2008, was renewed inactive from July 25, 2008, through May 31, 2010, renewed active (with continuing education) from June 1, 2010, through May 31, 2012, and was renewed inactive from June 1, 2012, through May 31, 2014. The Certified Public Accountant Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. AC-2012-50 and will expire on May 31, 2014, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. AC-2012-50 was filed before the California Board of Accountancy (CBA), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 21, 2012. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. On or about October 10, 2012, a First Amended Accusation was filed and on October 16, 2012, served upon Respondent through her counsel. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. AC-2012-50 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. AC-2012-50. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration

and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First Amended Accusation No. AC-2012-50.
- 9. Respondent agrees that her Certified Public Accountant Certificate is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the CBA's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### CONTINGENCY

- 10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the California Board of Accountancy. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the California Board of Accountancy may communicate directly with the CBA regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the CBA considers and acts upon it. If the CBA fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the CBA shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary

Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the CBA may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. 63080 issued to Respondent Martha W. Vlcek (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years, to run concurrently with the period of suspension, upon the terms and conditions given below.

# 1. Suspension

Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. 63080 issued to Respondent is suspended for three (3) years, commencing on the effective date of the decision. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall engage in no activities for which certification as a Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant is required as described in Business and Professions Code, Division 3, Chapter 1, Section 5051.

# 2. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all federal, California, other states' and local laws, including those rules relating to the practice of public accountancy in California.

#### 3. Cost Reimbursement

Respondent shall reimburse the CBA \$4,179.66 for its investigation and prosecution costs. The payment shall be made within sixty (60) days of the date the CBA's decision is final.

### 4. Submit Written Reports

Respondent shall submit, within 10 days of completion of the quarter, written reports to the CBA on a form obtained from the CBA. Respondent shall submit, under penalty of perjury, such other written reports, declarations, and verification of actions as are required. These declarations

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shall contain statements relative to respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the CBA or its representatives.

# 5. Personal Appearances

Respondent shall, during the period of probation, appear in person or by telephone at interviews/meetings, as directed by the CBA or its designated representatives, provided such notification is accomplished in a timely manner.

# 6. Comply With Probation

Respondent shall fully comply with the terms and conditions of the probation imposed by the CBA and shall cooperate fully with representatives of the California Board of Accountancy in its monitoring and investigation of Respondent's compliance with probation terms and conditions.

# 7. Practice Investigation

Respondent shall be subject to, and shall permit, a practice investigation of Respondent's professional practice. Such a practice investigation shall be conducted by representatives of the CBA, provided notification of such review is accomplished in a timely manner.

# 8. Comply With Citations

Respondent shall comply with all final orders resulting from citations issued by the California Board of Accountancy.

### 9. Violation of Probation

If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the CBA, after giving her notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or a petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the CBA shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

The CBA's Executive Officer may issue a citation under California Code of Regulations, Section 95, to a licensee for a violation of a term or condition contained in a decision placing that licensee on probation.

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#### 10. Completion of Probation

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license will be fully restored.

### Ethics Continuing Education

Respondent shall complete four (4) hours of continuing education in course subject matter pertaining to the following: a review of nationally recognized codes of conduct emphasizing how the codes relate to professional responsibilities; case-based instruction focusing on real-life situational learning; ethical dilemmas facing the accounting profession; or business ethics, ethical sensitivity, and consumer expectations (within a given period of time or prior to resumption of practice). Courses must be a minimum of one hour as described in California Code of Regulations Section 88.2 (Courses will be passed prior to resumption of practice where license has been suspended or where otherwise appropriate.)

If Respondent fails to complete said courses within the time period provided, she shall so notify the CBA and shall cease practice until she completes said courses, has submitted proof of same to the CBA, and has been notified by the CBA that he or she may resume practice. Failure to complete the required courses no later than 100 days prior to the termination of probation shall constitute a violation of probation.

#### ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Eugene Hlovsky. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Certified Public Accountant Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the California Board of Accountancy.

DATED: 10/31/12

Respondent

I have road and fully discussed with Respondent Martha W. Vlcek the terms and conditions 1 and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve 2 its form and content. Morrison & Foerster 3 DATED: 4 Attorney for Respondent 6 **ENDORSEMENT** FRUE The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 8 submitted for consideration by the California Board of Accountancy of the Department of 9 Consumer Affairs. 10 11 Respectfully submitted, Dated: 1/2012 12 Kamala D. Harris 13 Attorney General of California Janice K. Lachman 14 Supervising Doputy Attorney General 15 16 Deputy Attorney General 17 Attorneys for Complainant 18 19 20 SA2012106786 Stipulation,rtf 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. AC-2012-50

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1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		
2	ARTHUR D. TAGGART		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General STERLING A. SMITH		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 84287		
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255		
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-0378	. •	
7	Telephone: (916) 445-0378 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNT ANCY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10			
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	In the Matter of the Acquestion Assignt.	G. T. N. AG 2010 50	
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. AC-2012-50	
	MARTHA W. VLCEK 2480 Ram Crossing Way		
14	Henderson, Nevada 89074	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION	
15	Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 63080		
16	Respondent.		
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19	Complainant alleges:		
20	<u>PARTIES</u>		
21	1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her		
22	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the California Board of Accountancy, Department of		
23	Consumer Affairs.		
24	2. On or about November 13, 1992, the California Board of Accountancy issued		
25	Certified Public Accountant Certificate Number CPA 63080 to Martha W. Vlcek (Respondent).		
26	The Certified Public Accountant Certificate was renewed inactive (without continuing education)		
27	for the period June 1, 2004, through May 31, 2006, was expired on June 1, 2006, through August		
28	24, 2006, was renewed inactive from August 25, 2006, through May 31, 2008, was expired from		
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June 1, 2008, through July 24, 2008, was renewed inactive from July 25, 2008, through May 31, 2010, renewed active (with continuing education) from June 1, 2010, through May 31, 2012, and was renewed inactive from June 1, 2012, through May 31, 2014.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the California Board of Accountancy (CBA), Department of Consumer Affairs. All references to "Code" mean the California Business & Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Code section 5100 provides, in pertinent part, that:

After notice and hearing the board may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any permit or certificate granted under Article 4 (commencing with Section 5070) and Article 5 (commencing with Section 5080), or may censure the holder of that permit or certificate for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, one or any combination of the following causes:

- (h) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice before any governmental body or agency.
- (l) The imposition of any discipline, penalty, or sanction on a registered public accounting firm or any associated person of such firm, or both, or on any other holder of a permit, certificate, license, or other authority to practice in this state, by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board or the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or their designees under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or other federal legislation.
- 5. Code section 5109 provides that "the expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a license, practice privilege, or other authority to practice public accountancy by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee, or to render a decision suspending or revoking the licensee".

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#### COST RECOVERY

6. Section 5107 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that "(a) the executive officer of the Board may request the administrative law judge, as part of the proposed decision in a disciplinary proceeding, to direct any holder of a permit or certificate found to have committed a violation or violations of this chapter to pay to the board all reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees. The board shall not recover costs incurred at the administrative hearing."

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Suspension or Revocation by Governmental Agency)

7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (h), in that in or about November 2011, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in the case entitled In the Matter of Martha W. Vicek, CPA, Administrative Proceeding File No. 3-14625, entered an "Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice" suspending Respondent from appearing or practicing before the Commission. The ground of suspension was and is that in Securities and Exchange Commission, plaintiff v. Steven M. Des Champs and Martha W. Vicek, defendants, United States District Court, District of Nevada, Case No. 2:08-cv-01279-KJD-GWF, a "Final Judgment of Permanent Injunction and Other Relief as to Defendant Martha W. Vicek" was entered permanently enjoining her, among other things, from further violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Final Judgment of Permanent Injunction arose from Respondent's employment as an accountant of Bally Technologies, Inc. Respondent was also ordered to disgorge \$10,849.00 representing profits gained as a result of Respondent's wrongful conduct. Respondent was also assessed a civil penalty of \$30,000.00 and prejudgment interest of \$3,509.00.

The Securities and Exchange Commission Complaint alleged, among other things, that from the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2003 through the second quarter of fiscal year 2004, Respondent fraudulently recognized revenue on bill and hold transactions, made misleading disclosures and omissions regarding revenue recognition, and made materially false statements to

Bally Technologies's outside auditors when she represented the transactions were proper under generally accepted accounting principles. The improper bill and hold sales led to a twenty-five (25%) overstatement of Bally's reported earnings per share for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2003 and to thirty-three percent (33%) and twenty-seven percent (27%) overstatements of Bally's reported quarterly earnings per share in the first and second quarters of 2004, respectively.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Discipline, Sanction or Penalty against Respondent by SEC)

8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (l), in that in or about November 2011, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in the case entitled In the Matter of Martha W. Vlcek, CPA, entered an "Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice" disciplining or sanctioning Respondent by suspending her from appearing or practicing before the Commission. The grounds for the discipline, sanction or penalty are described in Paragraph 7 above.

# **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking, suspending or otherwise imposing discipline upon Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 63080 issued to Respondent Martha W. Vlcek;
- 2. Ordering Respondent to reimburse the California Board of Accountancy for its costs of investigation and prosecution of this case according to proof at the hearing under Code section 5107; and
  - 3. Taking such other and further actions as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 10/10/2012

PATTI BOWERS Executive Officer

California Board of Accountancy Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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Accusation